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The Winstons

The Winstons were an American funk and soul music group based in Washington, D.C. They are known for their 1969 recording featuring a song entitled "Color Him Father" on the A-side, and "Amen, Brother" on the B-side. Halfway into "Amen, Brother", there is a drum solo (performed by Gregory C. Coleman) which would cause the release to become the most widely sampled record in the history of electronic music.[1] Sampled audio clips of the drum solo became known as the Amen break, which has been used in thousands of tracks in many musical genres, including breakcore, drum and bass, hip hop,[2] jungle, big beat and industrial.[3]

The "Color Him Father" record sold over one million copies, and received a gold record awarded by the Recording Industry Association of America on 24 July 1969. It also won a Grammy Award for the Best Rhythm and Blues Song (1970).[4]

The Winstons struggled to secure gigs in the South with their multiracial composition and disbanded in 1970.[1]

The Winstons	
The Winstons in 1969	
Background information	
Origin	Washington, D.C., U.S.
Genres	Funk, soul
Labels	Metromedia
Past members	Richard Lewis Spencer Gregory C. Coleman Phil Tolotta Quincy Mattison Ray Maritano Sonny Peckrol

Members

- Joe Phillips (lead guitar, bandleader)
- Richard Lewis Spencer (tenor saxophone, lead vocals; died 2020)
- Ray Maritano (alto saxophone, backing vocals)
- Quincy Mattison (guitar, backing vocals)
- Phil Tolotta (organ, co-lead vocals)
- Sonny Pekerol, J.Lee Zane (bass guitar, backing vocals)
- Gregory C. Coleman (drums, backing vocals; died 2006)

The Winstons toured as a backup band for the Impressions.[4]

Notable songs

- "Color Him Father" – (1969, *Billboard* Hot 100 # 7)

- "Amen, Brother" – (1969)
- "Love of the Common People" – (1969, *Billboard* Hot 100 # 54)

See also

- Breakbeat
- Drum and bass

References

1. "Six seconds that shaped 1,500 songs" (https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-32087287), by Ellen Otzen, BBC News Magazine, 29 March 2015
2. Nottingham, Kevin (16 March 2009). "Top 10 Most Sampled Songs in Hip Hop" (http://kevinnottingham.com/2009/03/16/top-10-most-sampled-songs-in-hip-hop/). Retrieved 28 September 2011.
3. "Video explains the world's most important 6-sec drum loop" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SaFTm2bcac). YouTube. 21 February 2006. Retrieved 25 August 2015.
4. Murrells, Joseph (1978). *The Book of Golden Discs* (https://archive.org/details/bookofgoldendisc00murr/page/270) (2nd ed.). London: Barrie and Jenkins Ltd. p. 270 (https://archive.org/details/bookofgoldendisc00murr/page/270). ISBN 0-214-20512-6.

External links

- The Winstons (https://www.allmusic.com/artist/p25405) at AllMusic
- Interview with Richard Spencer (https://www.npr.org/2017/08/07/542087087/funk-band-behind-amen-break-drum-riff-receives-long-overdue-notoriety) on NPR

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